

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**  
**U.S. Application No. 10/590,311 (Q108487)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. **(currently amended):** A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a sulphated polysaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, curdlan sulphate, alginic acid sulphate, laminarin sulphate, and pectin sulphate.

2. **(cancelled).**

3. **(currently amended):** The method according to claim 21, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is inulin sulphate.

4. **(currently amended):** The method according to claim 21, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is gellan sulphate.

5. **(currently amended):** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is totally or partially salified with an alkaline or alkaline earth metal.

6. **(previously presented):** The method according to claim 5, wherein the alkaline metal is sodium.

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7. **(previously presented):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in the form of a sodium salt is inulin sulphate sodium salt.

8. **(previously presented):** The method according to claim 6, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in the form of a sodium salt is gellan sulphate sodium salt.

9. **(currently amended):** The method according to claim 7, wherein the inulin sulphate sodium salt exhibits a degree of sulphation between 25% and 62%, on an anhydrous base basis.

10. **(currently amended):** The method according to claim 9, wherein the degree of sulphation is between 55% and 62%, on an anhydrous base basis.

11. **(previously presented):** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is partially hydrolysed.

12. **(previously presented):** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is a polysulphated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of inulin polysulphate, gellan polysulphate, pullulan polysulphate, curdlan polysulphate, alginic acid polysulphate, laminarin polysulphate, and pectin polysulphate.

13. **(cancelled).**

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**14. (currently amended):** The method according to claim 1312, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is inulin polysulphate.

**15. (previously presented):** The method according to claim 14, wherein the inulin polysulphate is inulin polysulphate sodium salt.

**16. (currently amended):** The method according to claim 1312, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is gellan polysulphate.

**17. (previously presented):** The method according to claim 16, wherein the gellan polysulphate is gellan polysulphate sodium salt.

**18. (cancelled).**

**19. (currently amended):** A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, derived from a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of inulin, gellan, pullulan, curdlan, alginic acid, laminarin, and pectin.

**20. (previously presented):** A method according to claim 19, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is derived from inulin.

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**21. (previously presented):** The method according to claim 19, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is derived from gellan.

**22. (previously presented):** The method according to claim 19, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is a polysulphated oligosaccharide.

**23. (currently amended):** A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, produced by chemical synthesis, whose structure ~~corresponds to a portion of the structure of~~ ~~is derived from~~ a sulphated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, curdlan sulphate, alginic acid sulphate, laminarin sulphate, and pectin sulphate.

**24-25. (cancelled).**

**26. (new):** A method for the prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of inulin polysulphate in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

**27. (new):** The method according to claim 26, wherein the inulin polysulphate is inulin polysulphate sodium salt.